

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9848
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY FOREIGN MINISTER

1. OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY FRIENDS TELL US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WILL BE MAKING A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS DURING THE COMING WEEK. SOME OF THE DRAFTERS TELL US IT WILL CONCENTRATE ON EUROPE, TRYING TO FULFILL THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE TO HAVE A EUROPE-ORIENTED FOREIGN POLICY DIFFERENT FROM THE PREDECESSOR PALME GOVERNMENT. THEY ADMIT THAT THIS IS EASIER TO SAY THAN DO, AND WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY MAJOR NEW ELEMENTS IN THE SWEDISH OUTLOOK. WE ALSO EXPECT THAT MRS. SODER WILL SAY A GOOD DEAL ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

2. WE WERE TOLD IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEED FOR A MAJOR
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STATEMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY WAS FELT AND THAT THE OCCASION TO PRESENT IT WAS STILL BEING SOUGHT. WE GATHER THAT SOME OF THE FOLLOWING NEEDS LIE BEHIND THE SPEECH: FIRST, TO FULFILL THE PLEDGE TO PRODUCE A COHERENT "EUROPEAN POLICY." SECOND, TO HELP BUILD AN IMAGE OF THE NEW NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT MORE DIFFERENTIATED FROM PALME -- A NEED FELT THE MORE KEENLY SINCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS THE FALLDIN TEAM

IS GRAPPLING WITH CONTINUOUS BAD-NEWS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
THIRD, TO PORTRAY THE UNITY OF THE THREE-PARTY COALITION
IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AND, INCIDENTALLY, TO HELP COUNTER
THE CENTER PARTY'S AND FALLDIN'S REPUTATION AS NOT MUCH
INTERESTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE REMAINS HIGH. FOLLOWING
PALME'S HEADLINE ACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MRS. SODER SEEMS TO
FEEL OBLIGED TO SPEAK OUT VIGOROUSLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES
--AT TIMES, WE KNOW, MORE OUTSPOKENLY THAN HER ADVISORS
HAVE ADVISED. WE ASSUME THIS WILL CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH THE
RUSSIANS AND THEIR ALLIES REMONSTRATE EVERY CHANCE THEY
GET. WHILE THE UPCOMING SPEECH WILL CONCENTRATE ON
EUROPE, MRS. SODER MAY WELL FIND TIME TO MENTION THE
SITUATION IN ARGENTINA (STOCKHOLM 0687 NOTAL) AND TO
REITERATE SWEDISH INTEREST IN AFRICA.
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